

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SEC-01 EB-08 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 JUSE-00 OMB-01

TRSE-00 L-03 H-01 /044 W

-----082907 291400Z /53

R 290730Z SEP 77

FM AMCONSUL NAHA

TO SECSTATE WASH DC 2473

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAHA 395

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, JA

SUBJECT: EXXON POLITICAL CONTRIBUTION TO OKINAWAN PARTIES

1. SUMMARY. LOCAL PRESS GAVE LOW-KEY TREATMENT TO STORY CONCERNING EXXON POLITICAL CONTRIBUTION IN OKINAWA. LEADING REFORMIST PARTY, OKINAWA SOCIALIST MASSES PARTY, MAY HAVE BEEN MAJOR RECIPIENT, AND GOVERNOR TAIRA MAY HAVE BEEN AMONG THOSE INVOLVED IN OBTAINING THE CONTRIBUTION. END SUMMARY.

2. OKINAWAN PRESS SEPT 29 PLAYED IN LOW KEY KYODO NEWS AGENCY STORIES ON EXXON'S ACCEPTANCE OF SEC CHARGES CONCERNING PAYMENT OF BRIBES AND ILLEGAL POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS IN 16 FOREIGN COUNTRIES, INCLUDING JAPAN. STORIES REPORTED THAT EXXON SPOKESMAN YASUNORI KANEDA, IN ADDITION TO ACKNOWLEDGING PAYMENT OF CONSULTANT'S FEES TO A JAPANESE "STATESMAN" FROM ABOUT 1973

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TO 1972, SAID: "IN 1972, YEAR OF OKINAWAN REVERSION TO JAPAN, IT IS A FACT THAT POLITICAL CONTRIBUTION WAS GIVEN ONLY ONCE TO A CERTAIN POLITICAL PARTY IN OKINAWA. I CANNOT GIVE THE NAME OF THE POLITICAL PARTY OR THE AMOUNT INVOLVED."

3. ACCRODING TO THE ARTICLES, A NATIONAL POLICE AGENCY SOURCE SAID THAT HE DID NOT HAVE ANY CONCRETE DETAILS, BUT IN ANY EVENT THE THREE YEAR STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS HAD RUN OUT IN BOTH CASES.

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4. COMMENT: LEFTIST-DOMINATED LOCAL PRESS TREATED THIS MAJOR STORY IN LOW KEY POSSIBLY BECAUSE IT HAS BEEN REPORTED BEFORE AND BECAUSE, ACCORDING TO THESE EARLIER STORIES, MAIN RECIPIENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LOCAL EXXON SOURCE, NANSEI OIL REFINERY (FORMERLY ESSO-STANDARD REFINERY), WAS ALLEGEDLY THE LEADING REFORMIST PARTY, OKINAWA SOCIALIST MASSES PARTY (OSMP) LATTER HAS PREVIOUSLY DENIED HAVING RECEIVED ANY FUNDS FROM

EXXON. SEPT 28 STORY, HOWEVER, LENDS CREDENCE TO PERSISTENT RUMORS TO EFFECT THAT OSMF DID RECEIVE FUNDS FROM EXXON, THAT AMONG THOSE DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN SOLICITING THEM WERE GOVERNOR KOICHI TAIRA (WHOSE HOME IS IN NISHIHARA SON WHERE REFINERY IS LOCATED AND WHO WAS THEN OSMF SEC GEN), AND PRESENT NISHIHARA SON MAYOR, AND THAT FUNDS WERE USED IN JUNE 1972 GUBERNATORIAL

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ELECTION WON BY REFORMIST COALITION CANDIDATE YARA. RUMORS ALSO HAVE IT THAT LDP CANDIDATE IN THAT ELECTION, SHO SEN, ALSO RECEIVED CONTRIBUTION FROM EXXON. IF SO, IT IS NOT LIKELY THAT ANY OF THE PARTIES HERE WOULD MAKE HAY OVER THIS ISSUE.

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KNOWLES

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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